



Editorial

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Honouring Seppo Koponen on the occasion of this 70th Birthday

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Life and Career in Arachnology

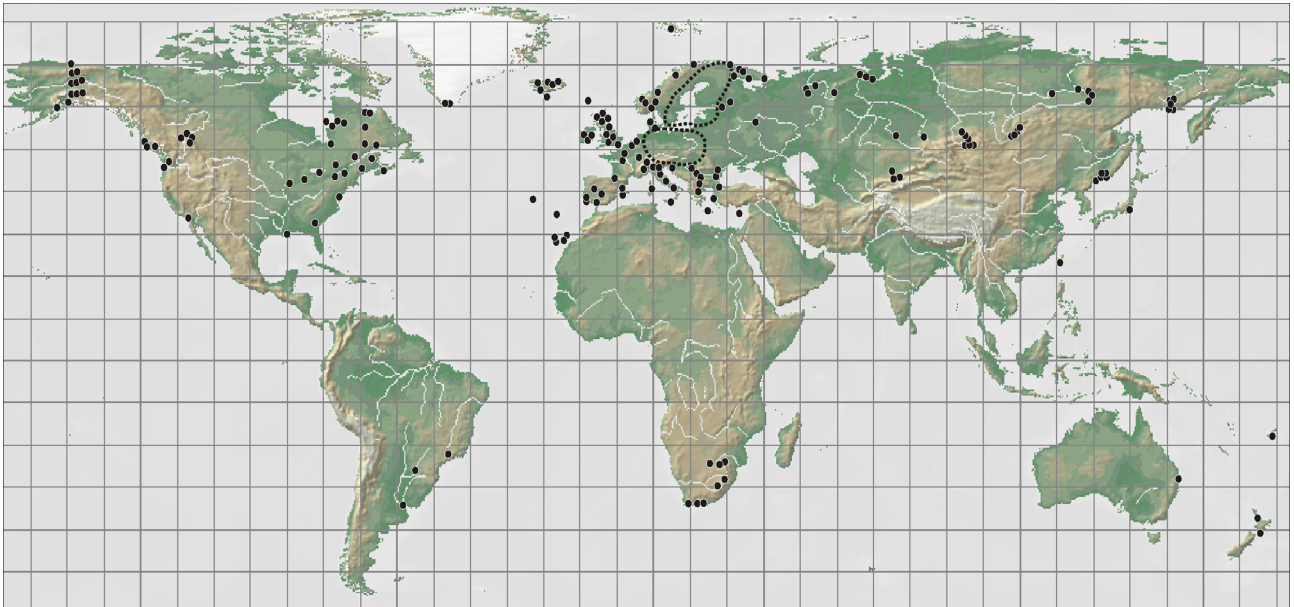
Seppo Koponen was born in Turku, Finland, on November 2, 1944. After graduating from high school, Seppo was admitted to the University of Turku in 1963. He specialised in Ecology and Zoosystematics, and studied also Botany, Genetics, and Geography. He did his M.S. work (1969) on peat bog spiders, and his doctorate research (Phil. Lic. Thesis, 1978), on herbivorous insects living on birch trees in Lapland and Greenland. Seppo's mentor and supervisor in Arachnology was Pekka T. Lehtinen (see Marusik & Koponen 2014). While studying in the University of Turku, in the late 1960s Seppo worked as an assistant in the Department of Zoology. After his military service, Seppo was appointed a Curator in the Zoological Museum of the University of Turku in 1971, and continued to work there for 40 years, until his retirement in 2011.

During his research career, Seppo served as an entomologist for the International Biological Program's (IBP) "Studies of the tundra biome" at the Kevo Subarctic Research Station (1971–1973). He lectured in Arachnology, Entomology, Animal Ecology, including field courses; he continued to teach Arachnology even after his retirement. He also was a visiting scientist in the Centre d'études nordiques, Université Laval, Quebec, Canada, for almost two years (1985, 1990–1991).

Seppo's field records in the North (north of 60°N) is outstanding. He participated in numerous expeditions, to Greenland (1976), several areas of northern Canada (1970-90s), Iceland (1979, 1992), Scotland (1980), Spitzbergen (1980), Alaska (1982), Faroe Islands (1984), many trips to Macaronesia and the Mediterranean. Beginning in 1977, Seppo regularly visited the Soviet Union and, later, Russia. He was an organizer and/or participant of ten expeditions to the Soviet Union/Russia: Yakutia (1977, 2002), Komi (1984, 1992), Kazakhstan (1989), Polar Ural (1994), Tuva (1995), Transbaikalia (1996), Magadan Province (1997) and Primorye Province (1998). In addition, he made many field trips to all Baltic and Scandinavian countries and northwestern parts of Russia (Karelia and Kola Peninsula) for field studies.

Seppo has published over 300 research publications dealing with arachnids (mainly spiders) as well as insects (mainly the Lepidoptera of Lapland and Quebec, leaf beetles (*Galerucella*) and phytophagous insects living on birch (*Betula* spp.) in the Arctic, and pollinators of cloudberry (*Rubus chamaemorus*) in Lapland). Seppo has been,

or still is, a member of the editorial boards of the Finnish journals *Notulae Entomologicae*, *Entomologica Fennica*, and *Memoranda Societatis pro Fauna et Flora Fennica*. In 2000, Seppo joined the editorial board of *Arthropoda Selecta*.



MAP 1. Places visited by Seppo Koponen during his research career.



PHOTO 2. Seppo during army service in 1970 (left) and during his first trip to Siberia - Yakutsk, 1977 (right). First from the left on right photo Nikolai N. Vinokurov (heteropterologist) - coauthor of Seppo in several papers dealing with spiders of Yakutia.

Over almost 50 years, Seppo has attended 13 International Congresses of Arachnology: Paris (1968), Amsterdam (1974), Vienna (1980), Jaca (1986), Turku (1989), Brisbane (1992), Geneva (1995), Chicago (1998), Badplaas, South Africa (2001), Gent (2004), Saõ Pedro, Brazil (2007), Siedlce, Poland (2010), and Kenting, Taiwan (2013). He also participated in 13 European Congresses of Arachnology: Berlin (1988), Paris (1990), Neuchâtel (1991), Catania (1993), Stará Lesná (1999), Aarhus (2000), Szombathely (2002), St.-Petersburg (2003), Blagoevgrad (2005), Sitges (2006), Bern (2008), Alexandroupolis (2009), Ljubljana (2012) and Torino (2014), and the Meeting of the American Arachnological Society in Ottawa (1990).

Seppo was among the organizers of two arachnological and three entomological congresses: 11th International

Congress of Arachnology (Turku, 1989, a Secretary and the Editor of the Congress Proceedings), 21th European Colloquium (=Congress) of Arachnology (St.-Petersburg, 2003), and Nordic-Baltic Entomological Congresses in Turku (1994), Tartu, Estonia (1994) and Birstonas, Lithuania (2010).



PHOTO 3. Longyearbyen, Spitsbergen - July 1980 (left) and Baikal Lake shore - 1996 (right).

Seppo Koponen has published about 150 arachnological papers and one book. His work on spiders can be divided into five categories:

- (1) Spiders of Finland and/or Fennoscandia: ecology, spatial distribution, new species records.
- (2) Arctic spiders: Lapland, Spitsbergen, Greenland, Quebec, Yakutia, and Polar Ural.
- (3) Faunistic surveys of large territories: SW Archipelago (Finland), Lapland, Yakutia, Tuva, Greenland, Altai, Middle Siberia, Polar Ural, and Russian Far East.
- (4) About 50 papers are taxonomic revisions or taxonomic-faunistic surveys. Seppo described 99 species and six genera of spiders. Most of new taxa are described in collaboration with araneologists from the former Soviet Union (Russia, Ukraine, and Azerbaijan)
- (5) Numerous reviews of the books dealing with Russian and Chinese spiders.

Special Contributions to Russian (ex-Soviet) Arachnology

Seppo Koponen played an extraordinary role in establishing research collaboration between Finnish and Eastern European colleagues from the Soviet Union (now, ex-Soviet countries).

Thanks to Seppo and Pekka T. Lehtinen, eight Soviet arachnologists (and several others from Eastern European countries) got an opportunity to attend the 11th International Congress of Arachnology in Turku – the first such congress that included participants from the Soviet Union. The 1989 meeting in Turku largely determined the future direction of Finnish and Soviet/Russian arachnology. Strong collaboration was established between the arachnological team in Turku (S. Koponen, P. Lehtinen, M. Saaristo) and Soviet arachnologists (K. Eskov, D. Logunov, Y. Marusik, K. Mikhailov, A. Tanasevitch, C. Tarabaev). Later on, many more arachnologists from the former Soviet Union joined this collaboration: E. Guseinov (=Huseinov) (Azerbaijan), G. Azarkina, S. Danilov, M. Omelko (Russia), S. Ovtchinnikov (Kyrgyzstan), V. Gnelitsa, Z. Kastrygina, M. Kovblyuk, A. Nadolny (Ukraine), and S. Zonstein (Kyrgyzstan/Israel).

In 1994, Seppo became a leader of the collaborative research program between the Academy of Finland and the Russian Academy of Sciences titled "Biodiversity and zoogeography of arachnids and insects of Northern Eurasia". Since 1994, research expeditions were organized to the Polar Ural (1994), Tuva (1995), Transbaikalia (1996), Magadan Province (1997) and Primorye Province (1998). These expeditions were important not only due to large material collected, and *over a hundred papers* published based on this material, but especially because they allowed Russian arachnology to survive in hard times. After collapse of the Soviet Union, the Russian Academy of

Sciences and universities had very limited budgets, small salaries often paid with several months' delay, and no funding for field trips, which became very expensive. Collaborative expeditions with senior colleagues from Finland (Seppo Koponen and Pekka Lehtinen) allowed Russian colleagues to continue their araneological research.



PHOTO 4. Seppo together with Finnish and Russian colleagues during expedition to the Lake Baikal in 1996. Second from the right Sergei N. Danilov (arachnologist) - coauthor of Seppo in paper dealing with Transbaikalian Linyphiidae.

In return, Seppo arranged trips of Russian colleagues to Turku, to process collected material, and to present results of ongoing studies. Seppo arranged travel, obtaining travel grants, not only for his co-authors but also organised several trips for A. Tanasevitch and K. Eskov who collaborated with M. Saaristo. He helped Russian researchers to obtain copies of publications, drawing equipment and supplies (e.g. drawing paper, ink, pens, pencils) that were lacking in the former Soviet Union and Russia at that time. For a long time, and until now, the Zoological Museum in Turku provided photocopies of the publications that researchers in the former Soviet Union could not otherwise find.

In 1995–1997, Seppo was the leader of an INTAS (an international foundation supporting joint research between the European Union and other countries) project “Biodiversity and origin of spider fauna at high latitudes and altitudes in Eurasia”. In 2006–2008, he again led an INTAS project “Diversity of spiders in Arctic islands”. Several ex-Soviet arachnologists, together with EU colleagues, participated in both projects.

Importance and fruitfulness of Finnish-“Russian” (=ex-Soviet) cooperation can be seen from the number of collaborative works: about 70 papers written by Seppo and his Eastern colleagues. In addition, at least two dozen works have been published by K. Eskov, A. Tanasevitch, Y. Marusik and some other colleagues together with M. Saaristo or P. Lehtinen. If one adds publications prepared by arachnologists from the former Soviet Union, Slovakia, China, and Italy while staying in Turku, the number of the papers published thanks to Seppo during last 25 years (after the 1989 congress in Turku), is over 250. This includes most of 300 papers published by Y. Marusik after 1989, which were written, partially or completely, while staying in Turku. Therefore, and thanks to Seppo Koponen, the Zoological Museum of the University of Turku has been for decades a very active centre for international arachnological research.

Seppo greatly helped Eastern arachnologists with loans of material and their return; in Soviet times, and until now, it was difficult to send types to Russia and even harder to send them back. Thanks to Seppo’s numerous

expeditions to Siberia and Russian Far East, Turku now likely has the largest collection of Russian spiders outside of Russia, and probably the largest collection of identified Linyphiidae. The linyphiid collection was started by M. Saaristo, while Seppo's expeditions and Russian visitors helped to enrich this collection.

For his great contribution to Russian arachnology and entomology, Seppo was elected as a Honorary Member of the Russian Entomological Society (a society with about 2000 members) in 2012. The European Society of Arachnology elected Seppo as an honorary member in 2011.

Seppo's contributions to arachnology and studies of other arthropods were acknowledged by the naming of 13 species of spiders, one species of sciarid fly, and two genera (spiders and millipedes) after him (see the list below). Six species and two genera have been named after Seppo Koponen in this issue of *Zootaxa*.

Animal taxa named after Seppo Koponen:

Koponenius Golovatch & VandenSpiegel, 2014 (Myriapoda: Diplopoda: Haplodesmidae)

Peyerimhoffia sepei Hippa & Vilkkamaa, 2005 (Diptera: Sciaridae)

Seppo Selden & Dunlop, 2014 (Araneae: Palpimanoidea)

Species of Araneae:

1. *Alopecosa koponeni* Blagoev & Dondale, 2014 (Lycosidae)
2. *Amaurobius koponeni* Marusik, Ballarin & Omelko, 2012 (Amaurobiidae)
3. *Berlandina koponeni* Marusik, Fomichev & Omelko, 2014 (Gnaphosidae)
4. *Chalcoscirtus koponeni* Logunov & Marusik, 1999 (Salticidae)
5. *Gnaphosa koponeni* Marusik & Omelko, 2014 (Gnaphosidae)
6. *Oreoneta sepe* Saaristo & Marusik, 2004 (Linyphiidae)
7. *Pharta koponeni* Benjamin, 2014 (Thomisidae)
8. *Scytodes seppoi* Bosmans & Van Keer, 2014 (Scytodidae)
9. *Seppo koponeni* Selden & Dunlop, 2014 (Palpimanoidea)
10. *Sibirocosa koponeni* Omelko & Marusik, 2013 (Lycosidae)
11. *Silometopuoides koponeni* (Eskov & Marusik, 1994) (Linyphiidae)
12. *Uroballus koponeni* Logunov, 2014 (Salticidae)
13. *Wabasso koponeni* Tanasevitch, 2006 (Linyphiidae)

We join other colleagues in presenting Seppo Koponen with a gift of this birthday issue of *Zootaxa*, as we all wish Seppo many healthy and fulfilling years of further work and joy.

Reference

Marusik, Y.M. & Koponen, S. (2014) Pekka T. Lehtinen: A biography to mark his 80th birthday. *Arthropoda Selecta*, 23, 89–96.